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Anh Nguyen
03/22/04 11:53 AM

To: NCIC HPV@EPA
cc:
Subject: Environmental Defense comments on the Reclaimed Petroleum Hydrocarbons category

----- Forwarded by Anh Nguyen/DC/USEPA/US on 03/22/2004 11:48 AM -----

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03/20/2004 09:16 AM

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Subject: Environmental Defense comments on the Reclaimed Petroleum Hydrocarbons category

(Submitted via Internet 3/19/04 to oppt.ncic@epa.gov, hpv.chemrtk@epa.gov, boswell.karen@epa.gov, chem.rtk@epa.gov, lucierg@msn.com and gravt@api.org)

Environmental Defense appreciates this opportunity to submit comments on the robust summary/test plan for the Reclaimed Petroleum Hydrocarbons category.

The test plan on reclaimed petroleum hydrocarbons was submitted by the American Petroleum Institute; no robust summaries were submitted and as such the plan is not reviewable. It offers little information on the human and ecological health effects of the likely hundreds of chemicals relevant to this test plan.

According to the test plan, this submission covers five poorly defined mixtures represented by five CAS registry numbers; CASRN 68376-53-9, CASRN 684877-26-9, CASRN 68918-73-0, CASRN 68956-48-9 and CASRN 68956-70-7. The sponsor wishes to include them all as a category although no chemical structures are provided, no common toxicological properties are identified, and no information is provided on functional group comparisons. Therefore, there is no justification for category formation and the request for category status must be rejected.

The only justification provided for category formation is that all mixtures covered herein are derived from the refining of crude oils they are all waste products, and they all contain hydrocarbon molecules of varying length (C5 to greater than C20). Some of the chemicals are apparently covered under other test plans, although no information is given on which chemicals belong to which test plans.

The five different subcategories are termed hydrocarbon petroleum wastes (slop oil), petroleum residues from clay-treating filter wash, petroleum wastes, residual fuel oil from wastewater skimmings and reclaimed petroleum products from wastewater treatment. Apparently some of these are discarded while other are used in various products. When this test plan is resubmitted, we recommend that the sponsor provide details on which products are discarded and how they are managed, and which products are recovered for use and how they are used in manufacturing processes or in consumer products. In addition, the opportunities for worker, environmental and consumer exposures should be discussed, and the ranges of chemical compositions contained in each of the mixtures should be provided, cross-referenced to the five CASRN.

We recognize that the issue of how to classify and assess petroleum by-products within the context of the HPV program is difficult. We recommend the following approach for the resubmission:

1. Prepare a separate test plan and robust summaries for each of the five mixtures as represented by their CAS registry numbers.
2. Present the range of typical chemical compositions for each of the mixtures in their respective test plans.
3. Provide specific details on how each of these compositions compares with and relates to other submissions from the American Petroleum Institute.
4. Propose and conduct studies in cases where particular endpoints are not covered by existing data.
5. Studies should be conducted on representative samples for each mixture and sample selection should be determined by the potential for toxic responses based on the available scientific literature on individual constituents of the mixtures.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

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